



## ***Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County***

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### **Adult Probation Department Celebrates 26th year of giving back** *Families receive a holiday meal and children get toys and visit with Santa*

PHOENIX – (Dec. 14, 2021) – Santa arrived early this year in the Historic Garfield neighborhood to hand out toys and gifts to the kids as part of the Turkey Feast celebration. This annual event is organized by the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department, part of the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County, in partnership with the Frank X. Gordon Adult Education staff and community organizations including St. Mary's Food Bank, Terros Health, Arizona@Work, the Arizona Probation Officers Association and the Phoenix Fire Department.

Families were served a traditional Thanksgiving meal prepared by Community Kitchen, run by the St. Mary's Food Bank. The Community Kitchen program gives current and former justice-involved individuals a second chance by teaching them skills in the food industry. One former justice-involved individual and former resident of the Garfield Residential Program helped prepare Community Kitchen meals this year and thanked the program and the Adult Probation Department for how well he is currently doing.

At the event, kids received toys and gifts and took pictures with Santa while their families listened to music and visited with friends and family. The Phoenix Fire Department showed up at the event with a truck and handed out stuffed animals to children.

"It's core to our mission as an organization," said Adult Probation Chief Michael Cimino. "We're grateful for the effectiveness our partnerships bring to those we serve. This year was a huge success with serving nearly 450 meals and handing out nearly 250 gift bags filled with toys, books and stuffed animals for all the children to enjoy."

For this event, the Adult Probation Department partnered with Terros Health which provided flu shots, COVID-19 vaccines and boosters as well as other health opportunities. Terros Health staff contributed with a special treat for attendees -- ice cream.

"It was fantastic to be able to participate in this wonderful community event through our partnership with Maricopa County Adult Probation," said Terros Health Integrated Care Site Director Ray Young. "Our teams were thrilled to be able to interact with the community and provide mobile health services

to the families that attended. We already have team members asking about next year's event. The afternoon was truly magical watching the multiple organizations come together for the good of the community."

Nearly 50 volunteers from Adult Probation, Terros Health, Arizona@Work and the Arizona Probation Officers Association worked together to help put this event together. Judicial Branch employees played a very important part in putting a smile in kids faces as they donated gifts and other items to this year's Turkey Feast.

"I'm grateful for the Turkey Feast every year, as it is a beautiful picture of the very best of what we do. Each year staff give generously, put hours into the event, and literally serve our community," said Chief Cimino. "I'm never prouder of who we are than when we are in the community serving it. We were excited to see all the people who continue to be impacted by this special event."

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